

Faces&Facts

July 2000

Newsletter of the Kentucky Commission on Women

Strengthening Kentucky by Strengthening Its Women

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM



Governor Paul Patton appointed Betsy Nowland-Curry to be the new executive director of the Kentucky Commission on Women. She comes with a long resume of leadership and involvement with the Kentucky women's community.

"I am thrilled to have this opportunity to work with Governor Patton's administration and the Commission members to further explore and respond to the interests of women in Kentucky," said Nowland-Curry recently when she met with Commission staff to insure a smooth transition.

As the director of communications and training for *EMPOWER KENTUCKY* since 1998, she returned to state government after a stint at the Kentucky League of Cities Training and Leadership Center.

Her varied career path has led from being the executive director of the Kentucky Women's Leadership Network to being a co-founder of the Lexington YWCA Spouse Abuse Center.

Nowland-Curry is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and a native of Kenton County but today, she resides in Fayette County. **Welcome to the helm of the Kentucky Commission on Women!**

Farewell from Genie

It is with a mixture of sadness and excitement that I leave the Commission on Women. When my husband decided to change careers and return to graduate school out-of-state, Spot, the dog, and Genie, the spouse, began to see lots of opportunities for us on the horizon. If wishes were horses . . . it would have been a decision made four more years down the road, but unfortunately we're not getting any younger and sometimes we all need a bit of re-potting.

I leave the Commission with an efficient, effective staff; a new women in public service education packet that will serve the young people in the Commonwealth for years to come; and an agency that has cast a wider net to involve more diverse women and women's organizations across the Commonwealth. It is all the many women I have met along the trail who have made this job so satisfying.

I am often asked why we still need a Commission on Women in this new Millennium. As long as we tolerate domestic violence, omit women from the history books and health research, pay women 72 cents on the male dollar, and only have 16 women out of 138 state legislators, there is a message of need in the female sector. The Commission is one voice for 52% of Kentucky's population. If I could leave you with just one statistic that continues to remind me of the work that lies ahead, it is this one: **24.3% of KY women aged 25 and older do NOT have a high school education.***

The Governor and First Lady have made my job easy because they have made women a priority, and I know Betsy Nowland-Curry will lead the Commission to new heights.

* *Status of Women in Kentucky Report*, p. 24.

Dr. Rosalyn Terborg-Penn to Speak in Louisville

Symposium considers the struggle for the vote

August 26, 2000 is the 80th anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, extending the vote to women. The Commission, the University of Louisville, and other groups will celebrate this hard-won fight and challenge traditional perspectives on suffrage. We will explore the hard work of suffragists that ensured women would be able to vote, as well as the struggle that African American women faced during the movement and afterwards.

The featured speaker will be Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, Ph.D., author of *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850-1920*. Claudia Knott, Ph.D. will make a slide show presentation based on her dissertation about KY suffrage, and a panel discussion follows. We will open an Exhibit of Suffrage Memorabilia from the collection of University of Kentucky Law professor, Dr. Carolyn Bratt, and there will be a multi-media Suffrage Fair featuring drama and videos, and an exhibit of photos and primary documents from archives around the state.

Votes for Women, Celebrating 80 Years will be held on the lower level of Ekstrom Library at the University of Louisville, beginning with registration at 8:30 a.m. The luncheon with keynote speaker Dr. Terborg-Penn begins at 12:30 and pre-registration is required, by August 21, 2000. For information, visit the Web site at <http://suffrage.louisville.edu> or call Erea Marshall at (502) 852-6745.

Louisville NAWBO wins national awards

The Louisville chapter of NAWBO was selected as the **Top Chapter in the Nation** in the intermediate category. The qualities that the Louisville chapter demonstrated under the leadership of President Pamela Rankin, owner of Executive Self Protection, Inc. and the principal of Block & Associates, include chapter dynamics, diversity, quality of programs, membership growth and the spirit of support and involvement.

Gordon Garner, CEO of the Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District, was selected by the National association as the **Top Corporate Partner of the Nation**, the highest award bestowed upon local corporate partners. Garner was chosen because of his efforts to improve the status of women business owners through training programs, personal consulting, and financial support.

Janet Skees, owner and president of Skees Engineering Inc., said of Garner, "Mr. Garner doesn't just provide 'lip service' when it comes to being serious about promoting and giving opportunities to women and minority businesses. . . His efforts have helped write the success stories of many small businesses."

Katherine Autin, owner of Jewelry Search Inc., received the **Team Builder of the Nation** awards because, according to the national NAWBO judges, "she gets others involved and knows how to motivate them to get the job done. She has the spirit that makes people want to be part of an endeavor, guiding them and sharing credit. Autin inspires people and recognizes the power of grassroots involvement."

Kentuckians both inside and outside of the business community should feel proud of these achievements. To learn more about NAWBO, an organization founded over 25 years ago to represent the interests of all women entrepreneurs, call 502/899-9238 to learn about the Louisville chapter, or visit the NAWBO web site to learn about the national organization or find a chapter near you, <http://www.nawbo.org>.



Members of the Louisville NAWBO chapter, from left to right: Sharon Sheer, CPA; Katherine Autin, The Jewelry Search; Betty Griffin, Betty Griffin Public Relations; Cathy Zion, Today's Woman; Pam Rankin, Executive Self Protection; Trena Smith, JM Graphics; Cindee Coffee, Stites & Harbison; Diana Lloyd, Lloyd's Florist; Rebecca Gardner, MSD; Debi McDaniel, MSD; Beverly Truitt, MSD; and Kim Dunaway, Dunaway Engineering.

KCW Staff Joins Southern Women at Annual Conference

The Stennis Center's *Southern Women in Public Service: Coming Together to Make a Difference* conference is unlike any other in this country. Founded in 1991 under the guidance of United States Ambassador Lindy Boggs, the conference unites women leaders working at local, state, and federal levels around the concept that America would benefit from more women in public service.

The conference has grown into the largest annual, bipartisan gathering of women political leaders. These leaders come from 13 Southern states, a region where fewer women have achieved leadership in public service than other areas of the nation. Participants include women in elected and appointed offices in all branches of government and women leaders in business and academia. The primary purposes are to encourage and aid women already in public service to move up the leadership ladder and to attract more women to the challenges and rewards of public service.

The list of program speakers is a "who's who" of leading women, including Alexis Herman, U.S. Secretary of Labor; Harriet Woods, author of *Stepping Up to Power: The Political Journey of American Women*, and Tipper Gore.

In 1995 the Stennis Center established the Lindy Boggs Award, given once a year to a woman leader from the South who has a record of exceptional leadership in public service and left a path for other women leaders to follow. Winners have been Ann Richards, former governor of Texas; Elizabeth Dole, former president of the American Red Cross and this year, Kentucky's own former Governor Martha Layne Collins. The award was presented to Governor Collins by Secretary Crit Luallen.

While attending the conference, KCW staff took advantage of workshops such as Running and Winning: Campaign Strategies for Women, Women Lobbyists: It's Not Just the Good Ole Boys Anymore and Getting Young People Involved in Public Service.



Tipper Gore and Executive Cabinet Secretary Crit Luallen present former Governor Martha Layne Collins with the 2000 Lindy Boggs Award at the Southern Women in Public Service Conference in Arlington, VA.

Partnership results in new brochure

The Kentucky Commission on Women, in partnership with the Kentucky Human Rights Commission, has recently published a new brochure, *Sexual Harassment in the Workplace: It's Against the Law*. In this brochure you will find answers to commonly asked questions such as: What is Sexual Harassment? How do I know that the person was not simply joking around? How long do I have to file a complaint? The brochure also contains information for employers, and a list of local and federal resources. For copies of this brochure, please call the KCW office.

GUEST CORNER

WOMEN BUILDING EMPOWERMENT, WOMEN BUILDING HOMES

Mindy Shannon Phelps
Executive Director
Kentucky Habitat for Humanity

When Habitat for Humanity was founded 23 years ago, men built houses and women helped support men in their efforts. Although both tasks held, and still hold, equal respect and merit, men mastered power saws and women swept up the sawdust. As the past two decades have seen a blending of traditional roles between the genders, women have become more accepted as house builders, but are still often relegated to support, rather than leadership roles.

One of the best ways to train women in construction is to pull together a crew of experienced women volunteers to lead a "blitz build" over a period of one week. The volunteers learn how to build houses and they also learn the true meaning of partnership with each other and with all people in need.

Kentucky has become the nation's leader in women-led blitz builds. More than 500 women have participated in these builds over the past few years, including First Lady Judi Patton. One of the women who has participated in a woman-led blitz build is Marsha Dailey, an English teacher at Apollo High School in Owensboro. She was one of 50 women who framed a house on a single day in May of 1998.

"I can't explain what happened to me on that Saturday nor the following Tuesday when I roofed for about seven hours. I do know I left that home thinking women can do anything. It was



Marsha Dailey (right) framing a house on Maple Street in Owensboro, May 2, 1998.

a new thought for me. I guess I should have known it, but I didn't," Dailey says, referring to her experience.

Dailey says every woman who feels helpless needs to participate in a women's build. She adds, "The women's build affirms and empowers us as women, without minimizing the role of men in our lives."

Anyone interested in participating in a women-led build may contact Kentucky Habitat for Humanity at 606-233-7614 or at kyhfh@mindspring.com.

Our Legacy, Our Future project to be released in September

Web site ready for visitors!

A year and a half ago, the Commission began asking questions such as, "How do we get more women voting? How do we get more women to run for office?" The answer that continually surfaced was "We *must* target young girls." In addition, it was decided, if we can get *all Kentuckians* more interested in women's history, women will have more support when thinking about running for office, whether on a local or state-wide level.

In the Spring of 1999, the Kentucky Commission on Women embarked on a project to address these goals by forming a partnership with Kentucky Educational Television and the Kentucky Department of Education to make a film telling the story of women in public service in Kentucky, both past and present. The project continued to grow, culminating in a four-part project intended to encourage interest both in Kentucky women's history and in public service as a viable career options for girls. This four-part project includes a colorful poster; a film about Kentucky women and public service; a Web site which provides information and resources about Kentucky; and a Teacher's Resource Guide developed by KDE and a group of Kentucky teachers.

The **poster**, which features brief biographical information on almost 200 women from around the state, was

released last spring as a "sneak preview" of this project, and they are still available. Please call the Commission office if you would like a copy.

KCW is excited to announce plans for the release of the remaining pieces of this project. ***Women of Kentucky: Our Legacy, Our Future***, produced by Elaine Walker of Peridot Productions, will be aired on KET on August 6 @10PM. Through interviews with women leaders, primary documents, and brief biographical sketches, this film encourages young people to become more committed to Kentucky's political process by becoming grassroots advocates and future office holders. Featured women leaders include former Governor Martha Layne Collins; U. S. Rep. Anne Northup; State Rep. Eleanor Jordan; Dr. Penny Miller, associate professor of political science at the University of Kentucky; Dr. Anne Butler, director of the Center for Excellence for the Study of Kentucky African Americans at Kentucky State University; Kathy Hockersmith, president of the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association; and Tori Murden-McClure, the first woman and first American to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

The Web site, designed by Buzzword, Inc. of Lexington, can be found at www.womeninkentucky.com. It includes photos, primary documents, sound and video clips, and bibliographies of print and media resources. As well as, timelines highlighting U.S. and Kentucky women's history. It can be navigated by profession, geography, and time period. This site brings together resources and information about Kentucky women never before found in one place.

In July the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Curriculum Development, gathered a team of teachers from differing regions and grade levels to develop lesson plans to accompany the video, Web site, and poster. The lead teacher, Jaqueline Powell of Atherton High School in Jefferson County, is putting the finishing touches on the activities that the teachers created, and compiling them into a **Teacher's Resource Guide**. The whole packet will be released in September, and will be

Calendar of Events

August 2.....	KET airs Women of Kentucky: <i>Our Legacy Our Future</i> at 10:00pm.
August 26.....	<i>Suffrage Symposium</i> at the University of Louisville.
August 29.....	<i>Women's Business and Leadership Conference</i> at the Embassy Suites in Lexington.
September 13.....	<i>Women Mean Business Conference</i> in Lexington at the Radisson Plaza.
September 16.....	<i>WINGS FALL ALL</i> Network Gathering at Natural Bridge State Park.
September 20.....	Toyota's " <i>In the Interest of Women</i> " in Louisville at the Galt House East.
September 21.....	Toyota's " <i>In the Interest of Women</i> " in Lexington at the Heritage Hall.
September 25-26.....	<i>Healthy Women: Advancing the Agenda</i> in Lexington at the Hyatt Regency.
October 26-28.....	<i>The Women of Appalachia: Their Heritage and Accomplishments</i> at Ohio University-Zanesville Campus.
November 9-10.....	<i>Breaking New Ground- Managing Change</i> Women in Agriculture Conference at the Louisville Fair and Exposition Center.
November 10-12.....	<i>Minority Expo.</i> sponsored by the Louisville Defender.

sent to every public school and community library in Kentucky, thanks to special funding from the Governor.

Governor Patton said the following about this packet, "This project is another first for Kentucky, a statewide endeavor dedicated to educating Kentuckians about the many contributions of women to the Commonwealth. It is my hope that the educators and the citizens of Kentucky will use this curriculum packet to educate the future leaders of our state and our nation."

Start thinking about **Kentucky Women Remembered** Nominations. Look for more information in the next *Faces & Facts!*

See inside for info on www.womenin kentucky.com designed by Buzzword, Inc.

Faces&Facts



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